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July 15, 2011

The Honorable Lee Hamilton  
The Honorable Brent Scowcroft  
Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future  
1000 Independence Ave, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

**Chairmen and Members of the Commission:**

Westinghouse is pleased to provide the following comments on the recently issued draft Blue Ribbon Commission Reactor and Fuel Cycle Technology Subcommittee Report to the Full Commission. The efforts of the Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle and to then develop recommendations on how the nation should proceed are commendable and highly valued by Westinghouse and all of our industry partners. We also appreciate the opportunities you have afforded us to participate in your public meetings and to review and comment on the draft reports from all of the Commission's subcommittees.

The United States is at a turning point in its domestic nuclear program's advancement. The time to establish clear policy is now as the industry is technically capable and ready to develop the next generation of advanced reactor technologies to solve our domestic used fuel challenges. Westinghouse believes the U.S. has time to find the solutions to our used nuclear fuel challenges, and we agree with the subcommittee recommendation that we need a strong research, development, and demonstration program for nuclear fuel cycle technology. The Commission has the opportunity now to provide a clear vision for the country and re-establish American leadership in developing solutions.

Westinghouse feels the subcommittee can make clear, informed choices to manage the technical, economic, environmental, and policy issues as a coherent system. Commission recommendations from these choices will then move the U.S. forward today in regard to managing our inventory of used nuclear fuel. The subcommittee's cautious approach places important emphasis on conducting research. The next step is to work collaboratively to identify specific technology needs and goals. This targeted approach will drive the U.S. forward in developing American technology solutions to address the legacy waste issue or to evaluate alternative fuel cycles that can dramatically reduce the challenges of managing used fuel in the future. Demonstrated U.S. leadership on this policy will result in U.S. leadership in technology.

A clear vision coupled with specific recommendations from the Commission for leadership and action will ensure U.S. technological leadership and at the same time, will address the difficult policy challenges of managing used nuclear fuel. Westinghouse appreciates the work done by the subcommittee and the willingness to seek out comments and input. We are grateful for the work thus far and are ready to participate in the next steps of defining the vision and delivering solutions to America.

Additional comments and specific recommendations on the draft report have been provided by Westinghouse to the Nuclear Energy Institute for inclusion in their letter from industry to the Commission. I would be happy to discuss any of our comments with members of the Commission or staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn J. Jackson", written over a horizontal line.